

Braden Manering, age 2, was referred to Early Intervention at 6 months old because he was not meeting his developmental milestones. Early intervention is designed to help babies and toddlers meet their developmental milestones. Qualified professionals work with parents and children up to the age of three years old who are experiencing delays in their development. The goal of early intervention is for children to reach their highest level of development.

Braden was assessed at Easterseals and began receiving physical and occupational therapy. At 8 months, Braden was diagnosed with left hemiplegia. Hemiplegia is a condition that affects one side of the body. It is caused by injury to parts of the brain that control movements of the limbs, trunk, face, etc. This may happen before, during or soon after birth. Generally, injury to the left side of the brain will cause a right hemiplegia and injury to the right side a left hemiplegia. Through therapy, Braden was able to roll over, sit up, crawl, walk and have full use of his left hand within a year of beginning therapy.

At the age of two, Braden and his twin sister, Byrnn, started attending the weekly developmental playgroup at Easter Seals. Through the playgroup, the twins get social interaction with peers while receiving instruction through developmentally appropriate activities. The playgroup gives children an opportunity to learn pre-readiness skills necessary for preschool or an early childhood classroom.

Braden's parents, Brian and Samantha Manering say, "Our twins love the playgroup! Our family does not know what we would have done if it was not for the help of Easterseals. Easterseals' programs have reached my son during a pivotal stage of development for kids with hemiplegia. Thanks to his therapists, Braden has a chance to live a "normal" life."